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**Course Syllabus – Spring 2019**

**Multicultural Literature/Composition**

Mrs. Aliyyah Salam

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Room 2223

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The United States is a multiracial, multi-ethnic, and multicultural society. This view contrasts sharply with the notion present for many decades that the U.S. is a "melting pot." The assumption with the Melting Pot theory holds that all nationalities and ethnicities give up their original culture and mix in the American melting pot, producing a uniquely American culture.

In the last few decades, however, many educators and social scientists have determined that the melting pot idea does not adequately describe American society. All ethnic and cultural groups have retained some aspects of their culture, even after moving into the American mainstream. Students will explore the concept of the American identity that many of us share while respecting aspects of different cultural and community identities.

These cultural remnants are worth celebrating and this class is designed to do just that. Our desire, however, is **not** to provide comprehensive coverage of American ethnic literature and history, but instead to suggest the richness of the American experience, particularly in relation to immigrants as a whole, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans. Therefore, our primary goals, while lofty, will be as follows:

* To help students understand themes (similarities) present in all cultures.
* To help students develop appreciation for individual and cultural differences and to understand that we are all multicultural.
* To glimpse American literature and socio-cultural features that have been ignored or misrepresented in the past, particularly in traditional American Literature courses.

**Supplies*:***

* *The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon
* Gmail account
* Pens/ Highlighters
* Post-it notes

**Weighted Grade Allotments:**

We will review this system in more detail as the semester progresses. If questions arise about your grades, please see me immediately.

Reading 30%  
Writing/Language              30%  
Listening/ Speaking/ Viewing              10%

Senior Project Research Paper 10%

Senior Project Presentation 10%

Final Exam 10%

Total 100%

**GRADING:**

CCSD Grading Scale

90-100 A 80-89 B 74-79 C 70-73 D 69 and Below F

**MAKE-UP WORK**: In keeping with school policy, all make-up work must be completed **within one week of the due date** of the assignment for an **excused** absence for full credit. Students are responsible for asking for any make up work and assigning appointments before school for make-up tests and quizzes.

**LATE-WORK:** The purpose of assignments is to aid students in acquiring the necessary skills of the class. With this being said students are expected to turn in all assignments on time. However, students will be allowed to turn in any graded assignment throughout the subsequent unit plus one week. Students will be penalized 5% each day up to 25% of the grade after the first week. Major assignments (projects and research papers) will be accepted at a penalty of one letter grade per day, but will not exceed 25% of the overall grade. The one difference to this rule is that **presentations will not be accepted late**. There will be one make-up presentation at the end of semester that students may take advantage of if necessary.

**Tutorials:**

Tuesday 7:45- 8:15 am and 3:30- 4:15 ( other times by appointment only)

**Cell Phone Policy:**

Students are allowed to have their cell phones on during the duration of class; however the following rules should be followed during class time:

* Cell phones volumes should be on vibrate/silent throughout the class period to avoid distractions
* Students must obtain teacher permission to use their cell phones (apps, texts, calls)
* Students may have opportunities to listen to music during independent study times, but must have individual earphones. Students are not allowed to share music devices with other students
* If cell phone usage causes a distraction to either its owner or others in the class, teacher maintains the right to first warn and then treat such disruptions as any other misbehavior, which may include detentions and or office referrals

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

* Follow the simple rules laid out in your behavior contract – overall, show RESPECT towards everyone in this classroom. I expect nothing less than your best behavior at all times.
* Always come prepared to class (this means pens, paper, and book).
* No food or drink other than water.
* You will be allowed 6 bathroom passes for the entire semester. Use them wisely.

**HONOR CODE/CHEATING:**

Cheating is not acceptable in any academic setting. There is no toleration!

If a student is discovered cheating, the following consequences may occur:

1. Assignment of a zero for that grade
2. Student/teacher conference
3. Parent Notification
4. Possible misconduct form to be filed in student’s disciplinary file (depends on severity of the case)

***I have read and I understand the course syllabus for Salam’s Multicultural Literature class.***

Student Name (Please print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents/Guardians,**

Please take a moment to read my attached letter introduction to you. This should provide you with more information about the best ways to communicate with me. I would also greatly appreciate you filling out the information below:

**Primary Contact** and relationship with student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Which would be the preferred way for me to contact you?

\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email

Home Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to be contacted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary Contact** (if applicable) and relationship with student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Which would be the preferred way for me to contact you?

\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email

Home Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to be contacted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any other information about your child you wish to share:

**Mrs. Salam’s Classroom Expectations and Behavior Contract**

1. BE RESPECTFUL – towards everyone, and everything. No exceptions.
2. Arrive to class on time and prepared. When the bell rings, you are in your seat.
3. Come to class with a positive attitude and be ready to participate.
4. Turn in all assignments at the beginning of class on the assigned due date.
5. Electronics/food and drink are not permitted. They will be taken up if you have them.

Furthermore, as this course will extend the discussions of how students view events, concepts, issues and problems from diverse cultural and ethnic perspectives additional expectations of maturity include:

* Students will participate in discussions in a relevant and academic manner.
* Students will respect the differing opinions of fellow classmates.
* Students will never make hurtful remarks on someone’s person or their contributions to our discussions.
* Students will ask questions.

If you follow all my simple expectations, you will definitely see my appreciation throughout the semester, and most importantly, you will be successful in this class.

However, if you choose to break my rules, there are negative consequences:

* First Time: Verbal warning from teacher
* Second Time: Detention/ Student-Teacher Conference/ Parent Call
* Third Time: Office Referral

***\*Any severe actions will result in immediate referral to administration***

STUDENTS: I have read and understand the rules laid out in the behavior contract

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS: My child has discussed the behavior contract with me. I support the teacher’s expectations.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER: I will be consistent and fair towards all my students in my praise and discipline towards my students.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_